



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

APRIL 2012 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

City Administrator

Vincent E. Jones

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As you know, July 1, 2012, is the official beginning of the new fiscal year in Seat Pleasant A City of Excellence. Unfortunately, the next fiscal year paints a bleak financial picture because there are major challenges facing us as we enter into the new fiscal year. The **first** challenge has to do with the condition of the overall economy in country, state and Prince Georges County. This challenge has become much more serious, because of the results of all properties in the City being reassessed last year. As you know, all of us who own property here in the City have seen a significant reduction in the total market value of our property based on the new assessments. The **second** challenge confronting the City involves the hard cold reality that the funds we get from the Federal or State governments have been reduced significantly, due to slow growth on the State and National levels. Forty five percent of our \$3.8 million general fund budget comes from property taxes and revenues from the Federal and State governments. **Last**, as we enter the next fiscal year we will receive \$356,260 less in these two areas in the coming year.

To that end, the City Council and I will have to make some major cuts in services. I am required by law to present a balanced proposed budget to the City Council by April 1 that ensures our expenditures match our revenues. Therefore, I have asked the City Administrator to require department heads and staff to do a top-to-bottom review of their departments to identify areas where we can make sacrifices. Every department began this painstaking task and identified budget reductions that equaled 10% of their current budget. This was NOT easy as we did not have and still don't have a very large budget to begin with and we do not exercise in frivolous spending. We manage a very tight budget and waste is not tolerated by neither the Council nor myself.

However, the decisions we will make will impact the delivery of services in the future. We cannot spend what we do not have and we will not burden the tax payers with large debts. Taking on large debts during this time of economic uncertainty is unwise. Just like you, the government must operate within its means. Core services will not be affected such as trash collection services. We will not have to lay off any employees but I am proposing that we not fill some vacant positions that we currently have.

Yes, these are difficult times but we WILL weather the storm. We are a resilient people and we shall overcome. Our collective strengths, talents and desire to live are far greater than the challenges we face. Our fore parents made it through the great depression of the 1930's. They made tough decisions; they cut back and made sacrifices. They left a blueprint for us to follow. They held on to their faith. They stayed the course and kept their eyes on the prize. We will do the same. So, let us forge ahead. Let us work together and do our part to better our community and by doing this we will become A City of Excellence.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of February and March

Resolution R-12-10

FOR the purpose to approve and consent to the Ninth Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of the Local Government Insurance Trust

Ordinance O-12-11

FOR the purpose of amending a new ethics ordinance for the City of Seat Pleasant adopted by Ordinance No. O-12--03 on August 8, 2011, to make certain modifications required by the State Ethics Commission to comply with requirements of Maryland law.

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

NOTICE: WE NEED YOUR HELP

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS

The City of Seat Pleasant is seeking interested parties to the Board of Election Supervisors. In accordance with the Seat Pleasant City Charter the duties of the Board of Elections are listed below. The interested parties shall submit a letter of interest and resume to the Office of the Mayor by **IMMEDIATELY**. The positions are opened until filled.

Section C-605. Duties: The Board of Supervisors of Elections shall be in charge of the registration of voters, nominations, and all City elections. The Board may appoint election clerks or other employees to assist it in any of its duties. All submissions for consideration **MUST** be filed in the **office of the Mayor**, Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN SIMMS

I want to remind residents that owning a Pit Bull in Prince George's County Maryland is illegal. According to County Code 3-185.01, "no person shall own, keep, or harbor a Pit Bull Terrier within the County. Pit Bull Terriers are defined as: Straffordshire Bull Terrier Breed, American Straffordshire Terrier Breed and American Pit Bull Terrier Breed." Violations will result in the illegal Pit Bull being impounded, fines up to \$1,000 or a sentence of not more than six months of imprisonment against the owner. For more information go to :<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/der/amg/licenses.asp>

On a lighter note, Seat Pleasant Day is coming and I will be supplying buttons for Ward I residents who are interested. Let's show solidarity as Ward I residents and let others know who we are! For those who would like buttons contact me by e-mail (elenoras301@aol.com), or telephone (301-655-6559). As always, if you have concerns about Ward I let me know of those as well.

A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON

Councilwoman Stephenson will once again be hosting Ward II Crime Prevention and Crime Watch Training on Wednesday April 18th at Pleasant Homes Apartments Community Center between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. For more information see the back page of this newsletter or call Councilwoman Stephenson at 240-601-1037.



SEAT PLEASANT BUDGET SCHEDULE

Below is the updated budget schedule for the City of Seat Pleasant. Look for further notification of public hearings regarding the budget so that you can provide your input.

March 6, 2012	Budget Calendar	City Administrator	Presentation of 2013 Budget Calendar to the City Council
April 02, 2012	Presentation of the Mayor's Proposed 2013 Budget to the City Council	Mayor	To allow the Mayor to forward his Proposed Fiscal Plan For Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2012 and Ending June 30, 2013 to the City Council
April 10, 2012 to April 16, 2012	Budget Presentation	City Administrator, City Treasurer, and Senior Staff	Departmental presentation of their Budgets to the City Council
April 23, to May 11, 2012	Budget Review	City Council	To finalize the Budget for the Year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013
May 14, 2012	Forward of the final Budget to the City Treasurer	City Council and City Treasurer	To enable the City Treasurer to assemble the Budget Book
May 21, 2012	First reading FY 2013 Budget Ordinance	City Council	To read the City's Budget Ordinance for the first time
May 29, 2012	Second reading FY 2012 Budget Ordinance	City Council	To adopt the City's Budget for the Year beginning July 1, and ending June 30, 2013
July 1, 2012	Budget Year begins	Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and City staff	Kick off the fiscal year



SUMMER JOB APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

FOR SEAT PLEASANT YOUTH AGES 15 - 17
ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MAY 11TH
THE APPLICATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.SEATPLEASANTMD.GOV

CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Below are the crime statistics for February for the City of Seat Pleasant.

MARYLAND
1

RETURN A - MONTHLY COUNT OF OFFENSES KNOWN TO POLICE

01723
AGENCY IDENTIFIER

FORWARD BY 7TH DAY AFTER THE END OF EACH MONTH TO :
CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION - UCR SECTION
MARYLAND STATE POLICE, PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES <small>(PART 1 OFFENSES)</small>	2	3 <small>OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)</small>	4 <small>UNFOUNDED, I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS</small>	5 <small>NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) INCLUDE ATTEMPTS</small>	6 <small>TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS (Includes Column 5)</small>	7 <small>NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18</small>
		(A)	(B)			
1. Criminal Homicide		0	0	0	0	0
a. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	11					
b. Manslaughter by negligence	12					
2. Forcible rape Total	20	0	0	0	0	0
a. Rape by force	21	0	0	0	0	0
b. Assault to rape attempts	22	0	0	0	0	0
3. Robbery Total	30	1	0	1	0	0
a. Firearm	31	1	0	1	0	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	32	0	0	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	33	0	0	0	0	0
d. Strong-arm (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	34	0	0	0	0	0
4. Assault Total	40	3	0	3	2	0
a. Firearms	41	0	0	0	0	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	42	0	0	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	43	0	0	0	0	0
d. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - aggravated	44	3	0	3	2	0
e. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - simple	45	0	0	0	0	0
5. Breaking and Entering Total	50	3	0	3	0	0
a. Forcible entry	51	1	0	1	0	0
b. Unlawful entry - no force	52	2	0	2	0	0
c. Attempted forcible entry	53	0	0	0	0	0
6. Larceny - Theft Total <small>(except Motor Vehicle Theft)</small>	60	5	0	5	1	0
7. Motor Vehicle Theft Total	70	1	0	1	0	0
a. Autos	71	1	0	1	0	0
b. Trucks and Buses	72	0	0	0	0	0
c. Other Vehicles	73	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	77	13	0	13	3	0

A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT - SPRING IS HERE!



The Code Enforcement Department would like to thank all of the residents who have been keeping their properties in a clean and sanitary condition. This allows for our neighborhoods to look more presentable and welcoming to people visiting and passing through.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Brushes and grass

It's that time of year to start cutting your grass and trimming your hedges. Please be mindful that your grass can not exceed 8" inches in height and that your hedges need to be no more than (3) three feet in height or encroach onto any public sidewalk or street.

Storage of Vehicles- Residents please make a note that vehicles cannot be parked on the grass on your property regardless of registration or inspection status and property ownership nor can there be more cars than parking spaces allowed for under applicable zoning laws.

Animals-

Keeping of certain restricted animals are prohibited. No person shall raise, keep or maintain any pigeons, live poultry, rabbits or livestock in such a way as to constitute a nuisance or in any way be menace to the public health. There shouldn't be any live chickens roaming within the City. Also residents please remember that all dogs ***shall be leashed*** while off the premises of the owner, and at no time shall dogs be allowed to run at large throughout the city. If such animal is found, ***they will be impounded*** and the owner may be fined. Also, please considerate of others and clean up after your dog(s) by using a pooper scooper and trash bags.

Tree Issues- The City of Seat Pleasant is not responsible for any trees and or tree limbs that may fall into your property from your neighbor's property. If those issues should occur, it's the responsibility of the property owner on which the tree has fallen. You may wish to contact your neighbor to discuss the matter, but City is not responsible for these issues.

A WORD FROM CPAC

Get Involved!

CPAC has always been an advocate for getting Seat Pleasant residents to play an active part in our community. We strongly believe that citizen participation is the key to having a strong, successful, and welcoming city. One of the main questions I get is why? Why should I be active in Seat Pleasant? My response is usually why not? Seat Pleasant is our home and we deserve to live in a safe environment with all the amenities that other nearby communities have. The only way to live in a City of Excellence is to get involved. What should you do? Go to City meetings that are held at 7:00 p.m. every second Monday of the month. You will learn so much about the City's daily operations and you'll have a voice in the decisions that are made. The Council discusses topics that affect our future and your opinion could have a major impact on Seat Pleasant's development and growth. You can also start a Neighborhood Watch Program on your street. This program will help to reduce crime and lessen the fear it brings. It will also help you resume control over the things that happen around you.

Getting involved is so important to our quality of life. Not only will you have a say in what happens in Seat Pleasant and improve your surroundings, it is also an excellent opportunity to meet new people. We can accomplish so much when we get together. If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, or if we can help you in any way, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Have you heard the news? If not, the County has proposed to relocate the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company, which sits at 6305 Addison Rd in the City of Seat Pleasant to Walker Mill Drive and Shady Glen Drive in Capitol Heights. Are you concerned about what this means to you and the safety of your home? We want to hear your thoughts and we are ready to address your concerns. Throughout the month, we want to meet with you. Call or email us at 301-836-1957 or outreach@seatpleasantfire.com to tell us your comments and concerns about the proposed station relocation and to discuss the effects it will have on the community. We will do our best to keep you in the loop in regards to any information that will effect your fire and emergency medical service. We thank you for allowing us to serve you.

SEAT PLEASANT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SPRING CLASSES

The Seat Pleasant Community Development Corporation announces its Spring Classes. They will run from April 9, 2012-June 8, 2012:

- GED Classes - Tuesdays from 3-7pm. Students must pick an hour during these times.
- (There is a \$5 registration fee for non-Seat Pleasant residents.
- First Time Home Buyers Classes - Wednesdays from 5-7pm
- Computer Classes - Wednesdays from 7-8pm(\$25)
- Foreclosure Counseling - Thursdays from 6-7:30pm
- Financial Literacy Classes - Saturdays from 2-3pm

All students must register by April 9, 2012. For questions or further information please contact: Mahogany Lofland, Education Coordinator at 301.324.2470

ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR SPRING

Spring has arrived along with warmer temperatures. Here are some energy saving tips to help get you through the season:

- Install ceiling fans. Ceiling fans can make your room feel a few degrees cooler and circulate air to make you more comfortable.
- Schedule annual air conditioner service to ensure your air conditioner is operating in peak performance. This will extend its life and save you money in the process.
- Install weather stripping to close gaps around windows and doors to prevent leaks which make your home hotter and cause your air conditioner to work harder. Also keep doors and windows shut tight when the air conditioning is running.
- Clean your refrigerator coils. Clean coils keep your fridge from working so hard and prolong its life.
- Install low-flow shower heads to reduce the amount of water you use every time you shower.
- Replace burned out light bulbs with energy-efficient CFLs which last longer and use a fraction of the energy.
- Turn down your water heater.
- Save heat-generating chores for nighttime to avoid making your home unnecessarily hot. Don't add to the heat by running dish washers, ovens, clothes dryers and the like. Run those appliances at night or early in the morning if you can to minimize the effects of the heat.
- Put window air conditioners on the north side of the building. According to the Energy Department, A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10% less electricity than the same one in the sun.
- Set your thermostat as high as you can stand it. This is probably 2 or 3 degrees higher than you think it is.
- Wash your clothes in cold water. Up to 90% of energy consumed by washing machines can be attributed solely to heating the water. Washing most of your clothes in cold water and whenever possible hang drying certain items can drastically reduce your energy consumption.
- Use More Off peak energy - As the weather gets warmer, running high energy appliances and other energy-guzzling devices at night can have a dramatic environmental impact. Even refueling your car at night is more environmentally friendly since gasoline evaporates much more readily into the atmosphere while the sun is still out.



DUNKIN DONUTS NOW IN SEAT PLEASANT



The new Dunkin Donuts has finally arrived in Seat Pleasant. For years the property which Dunkin Donuts now occupies was vacant and undeveloped after a previous owner tried unsuccessfully to bring Dunkin Donuts to the area due to unforeseen circumstances. The store is located at 9183 Central Avenue and is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. The store also has a drive thru. A grand opening was held March 28 with Mayor Grant and other officials with WPGC on hand for the festivities. We encourage Seat Pleasant residents to patronize the restaurant and bring in new business.

SEAT PLEASANT DAY IS COMING!



Saturday, May 5, 2012
Opening Ceremony at 9:30 a.m.
with Parade following

Activities in the Park
12 noon until 5:00 p.m.

Fun, Food and Festivities
for
the whole family

If you are interested in volunteering, vending or
performing please call City Hall at 301-336-2600.

Applications for the Basketball Tournament are also available at City Hall.

IS YOUR HOME IN NEED OF REPAIR? COME TO AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION TO SEE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A ZERO INTEREST LOAN

The City of Seat Pleasant has partnered with W.A.C.I.F. (Washington Area Community Investment Fund) to provide zero interest loans in combination with grants to low to moderate income residents who need to make improvements to their homes. Funds can be used to correct code violations or roofs, windows, etc. Funds are limited therefore applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Informational sessions will be held Wednesday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Seat Pleasant City Hall located at 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant Maryland. For more information call 301-336-2600. ***This program is for Seat Pleasant residents only***



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?



The Maryland Primary is Tuesday, April 3rd. The deadline to register or change your party affiliation was March 13th. Even if you miss voting in the primary, which we hope you won't, you can still vote in the general election if you register 21 days before the election. If you need assistance with voter registration, assistance is being provided for those needing help with completing voter registration applications. Help will be available between 3 and 5 p.m. every Thursday at Seat Pleasant City Hall, but please call in advance before coming. For more information contact 301-336-2780.

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
PERMIT #235

PLEASE REMEMBER....

TRASH COLLECTION DAYS ARE:



MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

(CITY CODE REQUIRES TRASH BE PLACED IN SECURE CONTAINERS TO PREVENT STRAY ANIMALS FROM TEARING BAGS AND LEAVING TRASH IN THE STREET)

YARD WASTE AND BULK
TRASH IS
COLLECTED ON
WEDNESDAYS

(FOR BULK TRASH CALL BATES TRUCKING AT
301-773-2069 BY 2:00 P.M. TUESDAY)



RECYCLING IS
COLLECTED ON
THURSDAYS WITH
REGULAR TRASH



Ward II " Crime Prevention and Crime Watch Training

Hosted by: Councilwoman Aretha Stephenson

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Pleasant Homes Apartments Community Center

6810 Greig Street

Seat Pleasant, Maryland

6:00pm - 8:00pm

All citizens of Seat Pleasant are welcome to attend

Light Refreshments will be provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON
AT 240-601-1037